



THE CITY OF  
SAN DIEGO

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# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

## Curb Ramp Quick Facts



### Why are curb ramp upgrades necessary?

- Curb ramps are **required by the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** and the California Title 24 Disabled Access Regulations.
- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and related state laws mandate curb ramp standards that must be met by the City. These standards are occasionally updated by the Federal government such that previously conforming curb ramps must be replaced whenever a public or private construction project triggers the replacement of the curb ramp within the project area.
- In other words, the Americans with Disabilities Act requires the City to have a plan for installing all curb ramps, and there is a continuing requirement that they be brought up to current ADA standards whenever work is done to trigger upgrades (even if they were previously upgraded to meet the former ADA Standards).



### What are the benefits of curb ramps?

- Curb ramps **benefit people in wheelchairs** by allowing smooth travel from the curb or sidewalk to the street. Upgrades are primarily required to prevent accident and injury for individuals with disabilities.
- **Curb ramps and truncated domes benefit visually impaired** individuals as a detectable warning at hazardous vehicular ways. It is a means to warn these individuals to pause or stop before entering into traffic. They illustrate the City's commitment to comply with the Federal and State accessibility mandates.
- Curb ramps **benefit parents with children in strollers**, the elderly, people making deliveries, etc.



***"Working together to engineer a better tomorrow."***

*If you have any questions about this project or the Engineering & Capital Projects Department, please call our Public Information Line at (619) 533-4207 or visit us online at [www.sandiego.gov/engineering-cip](http://www.sandiego.gov/engineering-cip).*



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***In this photo:*** Truncated domes are detectable warning tiles required by the ADA and California Title 24 Disabled Access Regulations to assist persons with visual impairment when approaching hazardous vehicular ways, transit platform edges, and curb ramps.

## How many curb ramps are being upgraded throughout the City of San Diego?

During recent years, over 600 curb ramps have been designed and awarded annually in City contracts specifically for curb ramp installations.

Curb ramps being completed as part of other capital improvement projects such as paving, water and sewer, parks, libraries, etc are treated as features of those projects and we have not as a whole tracked them separately.

Please note: Private development projects also trigger curb ramp upgrades. (These are not City of San Diego projects.)

## What is the time frame from beginning to completion of a curb ramp upgrade?

If the curb ramp is part of a Capital Improvement Project or a private development project, it will depend on the project's schedule.

The length of time to construct a single curb ramp with ideal site conditions may take a few days. However, a curb ramp with obstructions (storm drains, fire hydrants, etc.) will take considerably longer.

Please note: City contracts for curb ramp replacements typically have hundreds of curb ramps per contract and can take six months to a year to fully execute and can vary from contract-to-contract.



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